

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 5768

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 OECD PARIS 05774

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TAGS: TGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEETING OF OECD MINISTERS OF SCIENCE  
JUNE 24-25, 1975.

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA  
FOR SUBJECT MEETING:

"AT THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE CSTP AGREED TO THE  
PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA. THIS  
DOCUMENT CAN BE CONSIDERED AS EITHER AN EXPRESSION ON  
THE 6 MAJOR ISSUES OR A SUMMARY OF THE ISSUES PAPER  
SPT(75)2 (1ST REVISION). THIS DOCUMENT IS PRESENTED  
TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION, TO PROVIDE A KEY TO THE  
AVAILABLE DOCUMENTATION AND TO HOPEFULLY LEAD TO  
CONVERGENCE ON CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY  
MINISTERS.

INTRODUCTION:

THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1971 MEETING OF MINISTERS  
HAVE BEEN REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF THE EXISTING  
SITUATION IN MID-DECADE. CHANGES TO THE ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCENE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE  
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FAR EXCEEDED THE PROJECTIONS EXISTING IN THE EARLY

1970S IN BOTH DEGREE AND NATURE. THE INTER-DEPENDENCE OF ISSUES AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SITUATION NOW PRESENT MAJOR OBSTACLES TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

WITH THIS AS A BACKGROUND, THE MINISTERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE MEETING FOR THE 5TH TIME IN JUNE OF 1975. THE DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING WILL ENABLE MINISTERS TO ARRIVE AT CONCLUSIONS RELATED TO THE MANY ASPECTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICABLE TO THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES IN SPECIFIC AND THE WORLD IN GENERAL.

THE THEME FOR THE MEETING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX PROBLEMS, REPRESENTS A CONSENSUS ON THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION FACING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTERS. IN PREPARING FOR THE DISCUSSIONS, THE MINISTERS HAVE CHOSEN A SET OF SIX MORE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AS GUIDELINES FOR THE DISCUSSIONS.

I. THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN POLICY-MAKING: SINCE THE EMERGENCE OF SCIENCE POLICY AS A DEFINED ELEMENT OF THE POLICY PROCESS, GOVERNMENTS HAVE TRIED VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS TO INCORPORATE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INTO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. FROM PRESENT STUDIES MINISTERS SHOULD NOW HAVE A BASIS FOR COMPARISON OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS FROM WHICH TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SCIENCE POLICY BODIES IN OVERALL GOVERNMENT POLICY-MAKING. IN ADDITION, THE SCIENCE MINISTERS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO COMPREHEND THE IMPORTANCE AND THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVELY INCORPORATING MID- AND LONG-TERM PROSPECTIVES INTO THE POLICY PROCESS. AS THE NEED FOR THIS PROSPECTIVE IS EMERGING, IT CREATES A NEW REQUIREMENT FOR INTERRELATING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL VIEWPOINTS. THIS LAST FACTOR OPENS UP A POTENTIAL FOR NEW, OPERATIONAL, ACTIVITIES BETWEEN OECD AND CAPITALS, IN TERMS OF A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS FUNCTION. THIS INDICATES A SOLID BASIS FOR A MORE DEFINED AND COMPREHENSIVE OECD POLICY RESEARCH ACTIVITY OF INTEREST TO MINISTERS.

II. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESEARCH SYSTEM: THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ALL FACE COMMON PROBLEMS OF EITHER ALLOCATING OR INTERPRETING THE ADEQUACY OF THEIR NATIONS' R & D RESOURCES. THE MOST RECENT TRENDS ON THIS ARE DRAWN FROM INCOMPLETE DATA; HOWEVER, THESE DATA DO INDICATE A VERY COMMON TENDENCY BY OECD COUNTRIES IN REDUCING THE PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL BUDGETS ALLOCATED TO R & D. IN THIS DECLINING ENVIRONMENT, THE MINISTERS ARE ALSO CONFRONTED WITH

CONFLICTING GOALS ARISING IN PART FROM THE NEED TO PERCEIVE A COMPLEX SYSTEM OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS TO DEMONSTRATE SHORT TERM RELEVANCY OF RESULTS. MINISTERS ARE FACED DAILY WITH THIS AND OTHER CONFLICTING GOALS. IN THIS COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT, HOW CAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTERS BEST MANAGE THE R AND D EXPENDITURES OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ENSURE A

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BASIS FOR THE FUTURE WELFARE OF THEIR SOCIETY.  
III. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY: WHEN DISCUSSING THE TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN MODERN SOCIETY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR MINISTERS TO OVERLOOK THE PRESENT UNSATISFIED NEEDS OF SOCIETY. THE RAPID GROWTH OF OECD COUNTRIES HAS BEEN BUILT UPON AN INDUSTRIAL FRAMEWORK GROWING OUT OF A DYNAMIC TECHNOLOGICAL BASE. IN THE PAST 4 YEARS, INCREASINGLY, THE SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THIS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE, HAVE BEEN HELD UP TO MINISTERS BY INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE BODIES, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENTS.  
PAST GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS POTENTIALLY PROVIDE A BROAD BASE OF INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE ISSUES

PRESENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION. QUITE OFTEN THIS BASE OF INFORMATION IS UNDER-UTILIZED AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT GOVERNMENTS SEEK NEW MEANS OF MORE EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATING THIS INFORMATION TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

A BROADER CONCEPT OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT HAS EMERGED SINCE THE LAST SCIENCE MINISTERIAL. THE NEW REQUIREMENTS IN BOTH SCOPE AND FUNCTION REQUIRE A REAPPRAISAL OF THE OLDER CONCEPT.

FINALLY, THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS HAS TO COME TO  
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RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE PROCESS OF UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF SOCIETY. THIS UNDERSTANDING IS PRESENTLY INHIBITED BY A DIVISION WITHIN SCIENCE ITSELF BETWEEN THE NATURAL AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES. THIS UNFORTUNATE DIMSION MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE STABLE GOALS CAN BE ACHIEVED AND BEFORE GOVERNMENTS CAN MOVE WITH CERTAINTY TOWARDS FULFILLING THE DEMANDS OF SOCIETY.

IV. THE NEED FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: BOTH THE RATE AND NATURE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE HAVE LED TO INCREASING PUBLIC MISGIVINGS. THESE MISGIVINGS STEM FROM A GROWING AWARENESS OF THE UNEVEN DISTRIBUTION OF THE BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY. THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONSE TO CURRENT PROBLEMS MUST SOON START TO DEMONSTRATE MORE EFFECTIVELY ANTICIPATORY AND PREVENTIVE FUNCTIONS.

THE INADEQUACIES OF RESPONDING ONLY TO CRISES ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENTS BY A MORE RESPONSIVE, BETTER INFORMED SOCIETY CAPABLE OF CONFRONTING GOVERNMENTS EFFECTIVELY. THIS RAISES THE SPECTRE FOR THE FUTURE OF 'STALEMATE' SITUATIONS WHERE ACTION IS IMPOSSIBLE. THEREFORE, A CATALYST IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE FOR PRODUCTIVE PUBLIC DEBATE ON THESE ISSUES WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THE DISCUSSION OF BOTH THE RISKS AND THE BENEFITS OF POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION AS WELL AS POPULAR AND UNPOPULAR ACTIONS MUST BE IMPROVED.

PLANNING UNITS MUST INVOLVE THE PUBLIC MORE EFFECTIVELY IN ESTABLISHING THE GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR COUNTRIES. NEW PROCEDURES MUST BE CREATED TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDING OF PUBLIC CONCERNS.

V. METHODS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY IS PREDOMINANTLY INSIDE THE OECD COUNTRIES. THE PAST PROCEDURE FOR THE SHARING OF THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF THIS POTENTIAL THROUGH COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES IS NO LONGER ADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EITHER THE TECHNOLOGICAL INDUSTRIAL CONTENT

NOR THE SIZE OF THE NEW EFFORTS ENVISIONED. MINISTERS  
ARE FACED WITH OPTIONS RANGING FROM OVERALL OECD WIDE  
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APPROACHES TO 'A LA CARTE' REGIONAL OR RESTRICTED  
COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. THE PROBLEMS OF RISK AND BENEFIT  
SHARING HAS BECOME MORE DOMINANT IN THIS NEW SITUATION  
WHERE THE TECHNOLOGY OF KEY IMPORTANCE IS IN THE HANDS  
OF INDUSTRY.

WHEN COOPERATION WITH NON-OECD COUNTRIES IS  
CONSIDERED, THE PROBLEMS OF IDENTIFYING AND ADAPTING  
THE TECHNIQUES FOR SHARING ARE SUBSTANTIAL. MINISTERS  
MUST CONSIDER NEW APPROACHES TO THE SHARING OF  
TECHNOLOGICAL RISKS AND BENEFITS, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS  
OF SIGNIFICANT PRIVATE INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT. A  
REAPPRAISAL OF THE CRITERIA IS ALSO NEEDED WHICH RELATES

TO EXCHANGES WITH TECHNOLOGICALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

VI. A NEW VISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES: THE MANAGEMENT OF RAW MATERIALS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD RESOURCES IS BECOMING MORE INTERDEPENDENT AND MORE IMPORTANT. THE ENERGY CRISIS HAS GIVEN VISIBLE EXAMPLES OF THESE FACTS. THE FORMULATION AND ADOPTION OF MID-AND LONG TERM POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO THESE CRITICAL AREAS ARE NEEDED AND CRITICAL. A "NEW VISION" OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENCOMPASSES A RECOGNITION OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMITED RESOURCE ENDOWMENT OF THE WORLD, AS WELL AS THE COMPLEX SYSTEMATIC INTERACTION OF THE RESOURCE SYSTEM. A RESULT OF THIS "NEW VISION" IS A STRATEGIC VIEW WHICH DEMONSTRATES THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ELEMENTS IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY. A SYSTEMATIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE LEVERAGE POINTS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO DETERMINE HOW AND WHERE GOVERNMENT ACTION WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE. THE ASSESSMENT OF THESE LEVERAGE POINTS WILL GENERATE IMPERATIVES FOR GOVERNMENT R & D PROGRAMMES AND THE NEED FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ADAPTATION OF INDUSTRY. THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN EMERGING FOR YEARS AND THE TRENDS CAN BE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED. ONLY TIMELY ACTION NOW CAN AVOID COSTLY AND RAPID READJUSTMENTS IN THE FORE-SEEABLE FUTURE."

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